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Urban Districts of  
Hoylelake, Neston and Wirral

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REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.



For the Year 1955




# Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1955

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## INTRODUCTION.

The report for 1955 contains statistics and material for comparison with other areas or with the Country as a whole.

The Urban Districts which are considered in the report have changed little in character though of recent years new industries have been introduced into Wirral and Neston.

The emphasis during 1955 has been on housing and slum clearance which at the wish of the government has been resumed. Another survey of the District has been made and proposals for demolition and slum clearance have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Important legislation dealing with the Hygiene of food premises passed through Parliament during the year and in the course of time it is expected that this will result in an improvement in condition in places where food is sold or prepared.

The birth and death rates compare favourably with those of England and Wales and the infant mortality rate is considerably lower than the national figure.

Notifications of infectious disease showed a slight increase this year, a troublesome feature being an outbreak of Dysentery in Heswall and Neston during March.

## HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Urban District was constituted in 1889; and on 1st April, 1933, the Parishes of Caldy, Frankby, Greasby, Grange and part of Saughall Massie were added.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) ....	5,933
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1955)	32,050
Number of inhabited houses ....	8,926
Rateable Value ....	£305,588
Sum represented by a penny rate ....	£1,228

The area is residential and agricultural. Fishing is still pursued by Hoylake men, and other occupations are laundry and domestic work, wood-working, printing and brickmaking.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1946—1955 in Hoylake :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.
1946	26,080	51 more births than deaths ..... +1.9
1947	26,280	20 more births than deaths ..... +0.8
1948	27,310	23 more births than deaths ..... +0.8
1949	27,500	1 more birth than deaths ..... +.04
1950	30,950	40 more births than deaths ..... +1.3
1951	30,880	76 more deaths than births ..... —2.5
1952	31,260	50 more deaths than births ..... —1.6
1953	30,620	17 more births than deaths ..... +0.8
1954	31,080	2 more births than deaths ..... +0.1
1955	32,050	50 more births than deaths ..... +1.6

### Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1955.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 32,050, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	...	....	....	408	202	206
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	4	3	1
Totals	....	....	....	....	412	205	207

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....	....	12.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	15.0

Stillbirths.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	8	4	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Totals	....	....	....	....	8	4	4

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	....	17.7
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	....	....	23.1

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	362	167	195
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....	....	11.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	....	11.7



## Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ....	1	2.4

## Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ....	8	3	5
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—
Totals ....	8	3	5

All infants per 1,000 live births....	19.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ....	19.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	24.9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ....	66
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	Nil

## Number of Deaths during Years 1946—1955.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1946	347	13.3
1947	397	15.1
1948	330	12.1
1949	357	13.0
1950	367	11.9
1951	430	13.9
1952	407	13.0
1953	351	11.5
1954	383	12.3
1955	362	11.3

## Deaths at Various Ages During 1955.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year .....	8
1 year and under 2 .....	—
2 years and under 5 .....	1
5 years and under 15 .....	2
15 years and under 25 .....	8
25 years and under 35 .....	2
35 years and under 45 .....	6
45 years and under 55 .....	18
55 years and under 65 .....	53
65 years and under 75 .....	97
75 years and under 85 .....	121
85 years and over .....	46
Total .....	362

### Table of Infantile Mortality, 1946—1955.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):—

Year	Hoylake	England and Wales
1946	40.2	43
1947	55.2	41
1948	19.8	34
1949	22.3	32
1950	14.7	29.8
1951	25.4	29.6
1952	30.8	27.6
1953	27.1	26.8
1954	20.8	25.5
1955	19.4	24.9

### Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Trauma....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases ....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Total ....	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	8

### Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	3	1	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other .....	2	—	2
3.	Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ....	1	—	—
8.	Measles .....	—	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	4	7	11
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	3	13
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	12	19	31
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes .....	—	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	23	43	66
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	39	24	63
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	2	3	5
20.	Other heart disease .....	15	30	45
21.	Other circulatory disease .....	8	9	17
22.	Influenza .....	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia .....	7	10	17
24.	Bronchitis .....	9	4	13
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	4	3	7
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	2	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations .....	2	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	9	13	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	3	1	4
34.	All other accidents .....	2	3	5
35.	Suicide .....	1	3	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—
TOTALS .....		167	195	362



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)			
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages					
						Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1946	26,080	398	15.3	19.1	283	38	102	16	40.2	43	347	13.3			11.5	+ 51
1947	26,280	417	15.9	20.5	331	33	99	23	55.2	41	397	15.1			12.0	+ 20
1948	27,310	353	12.9	17.9	244	17	103	7	19.8	34	330	12.1			10.8	+ 23
1949	27,500	358	13.0	16.7	274	17	100	8	22.3	32	357	13.0	10.4	10.4	11.7	+ 1
1950	30,950	407	13.2	15.8	272	19	114	6	14.7	29.8	367	11.9	10.4	10.4	11.6	+ 40
1951	30,880	354	11.5	15.5	303	25	152	9	25.4	29.6	430	13.9	12.1	12.1	12.5	— 76
1952	31,260	357	11.4	15.3	319	33	121	11	30.8	27.6	407	13.0	11.3	11.3	11.3	— 50
1953	30,620	358	12.0	15.5	265	27	113	10	27.1	26.8	351	11.5	10.0	10.0	11.4	+ 17
1954	31,080	385	12.4	15.2	300	40	123	8	20.8	25.5	383	12.3	10.3	10.3	11.3	+ 2
1955	32,050	412	12.9	15.0	286	43	119	8	19.4	24.9	362	11.3	10.5	10.5	11.7	+ 50

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **Public Health Officers.**

Details are given on page 3.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the Board's laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital and the Victoria Hospital, Wallasey.

Food and drugs throughout the district are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake, (telephone Hoylake 2970) and Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall (telephone Heswall 3003).

### **Home Nursing.**

This service is now regulated by the Cheshire County Council and two District Nurses are employed by them in this area. The Hoylake and West Kirby District Nursing Association works independently. The Association provides two trained nurses for work about the district, and subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered serve to support the organisation.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is conducted at "Broomfield", Meols Drive, Hoylake, every Thursday at 2.0 p.m. and additional clinics are arranged when required.

The following clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

#### Child Welfare.

Place	Each Month	Time.
Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive ....	Every Thursday ....	2-0 p.m.
West Kirby—Parish Hall, West- bourne Road ....	Every Friday ....	1-45 p.m.
Greasby—Methodist Church Hall	Every Tuesday ....	1-45 p.m.

#### Ante-Natal.

This Clinic is provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and is held at :

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive ....	Every Tuesday ....	9.30 a.m.
The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance.		

#### School Clinic.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive ....	Every Friday ....	9-30 a.m.
(School Medical Officer attends every Friday at 9-30 a.m.)		

#### Dental Treatment.

Dental Clinics are held by arrangement at "Broomfield," Meols Drive, Hoylake.

The following specialist clinics are provided for patients residing in the Hoylake Urban District :—

### Ophthalmic.

Place	Each Month	Time
Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	.... 1st and 3rd Fridays ....	2-0 p.m.

### Orthopaedic.

Hoylake Cottage Hospital	.... 1st and 3rd Saturdays	9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
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### Speech Therapy.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	.... Every Monday	.... 9-0 a.m. to 4-0 p.m.
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### Paediatric.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	Every Monday	.... 11 a.m. to 12 noon
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### Tuberculosis.

Wallasey—Mill Lane Hospital

Every Monday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. adults.
Every Tuesday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. children 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. adults.
Every Wednesday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults.
Every Friday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults.

Hoylake—Hoylake Cottage Hospital.

1st and 3rd Mondays	.... 2-30 p.m.
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### Venereal Disease

St. James Hospital, Every Monday 2-0 to 6.30 p.m. Male and Female.  
Tollemache Road,

Birkenhead. Every Wednesday 10-0 to 12 noon Male and Female.  
(Clinic Annexe) 2-0 to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.

Every Friday 2-0 to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.



## **Hospitals.**

The hospitals of the district, both voluntary and public, are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Hoylake is in the area of the North Wirral Hospital Management Committee which administers the Hoylake and West Kirby Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital and Caldy Manor Hospital. The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital has an authorized bed complement of 38. It is staffed by the practitioners of the district and by visiting consultants. It is equipped for major surgical work and has a modern X-ray department.

Caldy Manor Hospital is specialized for the treatment of heart and circulatory conditions. 41 beds are provided there, and there is a visiting medical and consultant staff.

Other hospitals and institutions under the Board's management are available to local residents. The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Smallpox Hospital for the treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, which has not been included in the Regional Hospital Scheme, provides a number of beds for the emergency treatment of sick children from this locality. This institution has excellent equipment and is staffed by visiting Practitioners and Consultants. It is provided with a steam disinfecter.

## **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the serious shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

## **Mortuaries.**

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Carr Lane, Hoylake.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board. The sources of supply are deep wells at Grange and Newton in the former case, and from Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth in the latter. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated, and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those investigated during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters supplied in the area has a plumbo solvent action, and the Analyst's reports have revealed no evidence of contamination in any form.

With the exception of seven houses on Hilbre, one house at Saughall Massie and a cottage in South Ward, public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking and domestic and trade purposes. The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the Home, and there is also a borehole providing an independent supply at the Deeside Laundry, West Kirby.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the house, (b) by means of stand pipes, are given below :-

			Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) House direct	....	....	8,909	31,990
(b) Standpipes	....	....	17	60

### **Consumption.**

It is estimated that the average consumption of water supplied from the Council's Waterworks is approximately 43 gallons per head per day. This figure includes water used for trade purposes.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 34.5 gallons per head per day.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Nine reports of sewer blockages were received during the year. In two cases the sewers had collapsed due to faulty construction and were duly made good. The remaining seven were primarily due to tree roots and were cleared by rodding and excavation.

During periods of heavy rain, flooding occurred again at Greasby, particularly in Brookdale Avenue and near the R.A.F. Camp. These conditions are due to some extent to the inadequacy of the North Wirral Outfall Sewer and to the fact that it occasionally becomes blocked due to the age of the joints and its construction. The Engineers of the Constituent Authorities have continued their negotiations and consultations with the Consulting Engineers concerning the reconstruction of this system, and it is hoped that conclusions will be reached early in 1956.

Minor flooding also occurred in Greenbank Road, West Kirby.

An additional 269 houses have been connected to the sewerage system.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The Cheshire Rivers Board have cleaned and strengthened the River Birkett, particularly across The Carrs and the Arrowe Brook at Greasby. These works have considerably improved the flow and the general condition of these waterways.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Thirty-one dwellings, including seventeen which are occupied as summer dwellings, are provided with closets other than water closets.

### **Open Spaces.**

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.



### Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected from every dwelling house each week, and from certain other premises three times each week. A bi-weekly collection is also made from schools and public institutions.

### Statistics.

Number of premises, excluding R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, from which refuse was collected	....	....	....	....	9546
Number of bins, including R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby	....				10877
Weight of refuse collected per annum	....	....	....		9240tons.
Average length of haul to tip	....	....	....	....	2½ ml.
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited (per visit)	....	....	....	....	£35
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected (per collection)	....	....	....	....	£31

### Salvage Collected.

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>£</i>
Paper	....	....	....	....	415	10	1	3485
Textiles	....	....	....	....	3	17	0	46
Baled Tins	....	....	....	....	16	1	0	66
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	435	8	1	3597

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made					Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices	
					Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding
Dwelling Houses—P.H.A.	....	875			31	119	107	12
H. A. Repairs	....	20			—	1	—	1
H.A. Overcrowding		2			—	—	—	—
H.A. Representations	353				—	—	—	—
Certs. of Disrepair	83				—	4	4	—
Improvement Grants	5				—	—	—	—
Camping	....	9			—	—	—	—
Cesspool, Septic Tanks	....	6			—	—	—	—
Disinfection	....	35			—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	....	77			—	3	3	—
Drainage	....	407			16	46	43	3
Dustbins	....	45			—	12	10	2
Factories	....	131			—	10	8	2
Food Inspection	....	84			—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	....	26			—	—	—	—
Food Premises—Bakehouses	....	157			—	1	1	—
Butchers	....	170			—	1	1	—
Dairies	....	74			—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	129				—	—	—	—
Other Premises	....	610			—	8	8	—
Game Licences	....	6			—	—	—	—
Hairdressers	....	48			—	—	—	—
Hackney Carriages	....	71			—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	....	69			—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	....	106			—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	....	53			—	3	3	—
Licensed Premises	....	64			—	15	2	13
Milk Sampling	....	136			—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	....	64			—	5	5	—
Other Food Samples	....	116			—	—	—	—
Pet Shops	....	5			—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	....	11			—	1	1	—
Privies, Earthclosets	....	10			—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	....	5			—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	....	1585			—	—	—	—
Refuse Collection & Disposal	....	16			—	1	1	—
Schools	....	12			—	—	—	—
Shops Act	....	11			—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	....	19			—	3	3	—
Soil Samples....	....	63			—	—	—	—
Street Vendors & Hawkers....	....	4			—	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	....	9			—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	....	70			—	2	2	—
Water Supply	....	22			—	3	3	—
Miscellaneous	....	400			—	1	1	—
TOTALS	....	6173			47	239	206	33

## Factories Act, 1937 &amp; 1948.

## Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	36	6	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	69	87	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	29	8	—	—
Total ....	130	131	10	—

## Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Total ....	12	12	—	1	—

### **Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.**

There are very few factories of any size in the area but many small businesses come under the definition of factory in the Act. The majority of work is concerned with these smaller type of factories. A copy of the return to the Ministry of Labour and National Service is reproduced on page 21.

### **Licensed Premises.**

A survey of all licensed premises in the area has been carried out and several of them were found to be unsatisfactory especially with regard to decorations, and the siting, screening, and adequacy of the Sanitary Accommodation. The owners were notified and have indicated that these matters will be remedied early in the new year.

### **Shops.**

Owing to the shortage of staff very little work has been done under the Shops Act, 1950. It is hoped to remedy this in the coming year.

### **Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.**

One area of land in Greasby is licensed by the Council for camping and control is exercised by virtue of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act 1935 and Byelaws made thereunder. The camp consists of some 29 caravans and a few tents. Occupation of the site is limited, by the proprietress, to six months in the year.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

Routine smoke observations were carried out during the year and no serious smoke nuisance was recorded. The only smoke nuisance of any consequence was abated when the Laundry concerned carried out repairs to the under-flues of their boiler.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are two open-air public swimming baths in the district, Hoylake Baths and the West Kirby Marine Lake. Filtration and Chlorination plant is installed at the former and the water of both baths is subjected to periodical bacteriological and chemical examinations all of which have been satisfactory.



### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested :-

(a)	Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b)	Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	—

Number of houses disinfested :-

(a)	Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b)	Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	—

Method employed :—Spraying with D.D.T. Insecticide.

### Schools.

All schools in the district are supplied with water from the public supplies and all are provided with water closets. There are 2 Grammar, 1 Secondary and 3 Primary schools belonging to the County Authority with 3 controlled C. of E. and 1 C. of E. outside County control. Also there are 2 boarding schools and 8 private schools.

## HOUSING

288 units of accommodation were provided by the Council and private enterprise during 1955, compared with 279 during 1954. Of this number, 14 new houses were erected by the Council, 276 houses and 12 flats by private enterprise, resulting from the conversion of existing houses.

During the year the following progress has been made :

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
No. of new houses erected during 1955	14	262	276
No. of totally destroyed war damaged houses erected in 1955 ....	—	—	—
No. of flats provided in 1955 ....	—	12	12
TOTAL ....	14	274	288

The following table indicates the progress made since the 1st August, 1945, when the Ministry of Health authorised the commencement of housing programmes :

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
No. of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 ....	615	826	1451
No. of war damaged houses erected since 1st August 1945 ....	—	10	
No. of flats provided since 1st August, 1945 ....	26	321	347
TOTAL ....	641	1157	1798

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

All milk retailed in the area is designated Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

Twenty-one distributors are registered in the district, to whom licences for the sale of designated milk have been issued as follows :—

#### *Tuberculin*

*Tested: Pasteurised: Sterilized:*

Dealer's Licences : ....	....	....	16	19	16
Supplementary Licences : ....	....	....	4	3	4

All schools are served with Pasteurised Milk and four local institutions admitting children use either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested.

### Milk Sampling.

Regular samples of all types of milk retailed in the area have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead for Statutory and Biological tests.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methy-lene Blue		Phos-phatase		Tubercle Bacilli		Turbidity	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative	Passed	Failed
Sterilised ....	12	12	—	12	—	—	—	12	—
Pasteurised ....	47	37	—	37	—	—	—	—	—
Accredited ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded ....	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Tuberculin Tested ....	40	38	2	—	—	—	13	—	—
T. T. Pasteurised ....	34	33	1	34	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ....	136	123	3	83	—	—	16	12	—

10 samples were taken from the R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, at the request of the S.M.O. following the finding of Staph. Aureus and B. Coli. in the supply by the R.A.F. Laboratory. Six samples were taken as delivered and all were negative. A further four were taken after the milk had been in the cookhouse for 24 hours and of these two were found to be negative and two contained Staph. Aureus and B. Coli. The contamination was judged to occur in the cookhouse and the matter was left to the R.A.F.

A bottle of school milk from a school in Greasby was found to contain some 50 larvae adhering to the inside of the bottle. These were identified by the Liverpool University School of Tropical Medicine as the larvae of the *Drosophila* (Buskii) species. This fly uses a powerful cement to fix its eggs to the inside of milk bottles containing fermenting milk. These eggs and larvae are extremely difficult to remove by any normal means, but they are plainly visible in the bottle when it is filled with milk, and should have been noted by the supervisor. The dairy concerned was warned to exercise stricter supervision.

## **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**

### **Meat Inspection.**

The methods of meat distribution to butchers in the area are generally satisfactory. The larger concerns use specially adapted vehicles. Only one firm fell short of the required standard and after representations were made their vehicles were altered. There are no slaughterhouses in the area.

Meat surrendered during the year amounted to 147lbs. comprising 89lbs. due to bone taint and 58lbs. due to decomposition.

Regular routine visits were paid to the butchers shops and the standard of hygiene was maintained at a high level.

### **Dried Egg Albumen.**

Following reports from other local Authorities of the presence of *Salmonella* and Paratyphoid organisms in Dried Chinese Egg Albumen used in the confectionery trade samples of all such material in use in the district were obtained and submitted to the Bacteriologist. Three samples were found to contain *Salmonella* organisms. The users surrendered the remainder of their stock and this was destroyed. Following the investigation the practice of using this type of albumen in the district has almost ceased.

## **FOOD PREMISES**

All food premises in the area have been regularly inspected and, in general, a high standard has been maintained. All notices served have been complied with.

Plans received by the Engineer and Surveyor relating to Food Premises were referred to this department for consideration.



151 surrender notes were issued relative to unsound food, details of which are appended, and disposal was carried out satisfactorily.

Commodity Surrendered	Quantity	Unfit for consumption by reason of
Bacon ....	13 lbs.	Decomposition
Cordial ....	1 bot.	Mould
Dates ....	4 pkts.	Mould
Dried Egg Albumen ....	25 lbs.	Presence of Salmonella Organisms
Fish, Wet ....	19½ lbs.	Decomposition
Fish, Tinned ....	7 tins	Blown
Fruit, Tinned....	168 tins	Blown or Damaged
Meat ....	147 lbs.	Bone Taint & Decomposi- tion
Meat, Tinned....	74 tins	Blown & Decomposition
Milk, Tinned ....	52 tins	Blown or Damaged
Peas, Tinned ....	420 tins	Blown
Soup ....	14 tins	Blown
Vegetables, Tinned ....	188 tins	Blown or Damaged

### Ice Cream

There is one local manufacture on the register and he uses the Cold Mix method.

There are 79 dealers on the register and 9 manufacturers outside the district supply them.

Forty-five samples of ice cream and twenty-seven samples of ice lollies were submitted to the Bacteriologist. The results are given below :

Source of Supply:	Number of samples	Grade:			
		1.	2.	3.	4.
Local ....	1	1	—	—	—
External ....	44	42	2	—	—

### Ice Lollies.

Source of Supply	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Local....	2	2	—
External ....	27	25	2

**Adulteration.**

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

**List of Samples taken in the Hoylake Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.**

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirin Spirit Liniment ....	1	—
Almonds, Ground ....	1	—
Aluminium Hydroxide Gel	1	—
A.P.C. Tablets ....	1	—
Boric Ointment ....	2	—
Butter ....	1	—
Cream, Tinned ....	4	—
Camphorated Oil....	2	—
Coffee & Chicory....	1	—
Curry Powder ....	1	—
Caraway Seeds ....	1	—
Coconut, Desiccated ....	5	—
Dripping ....	1	—
Fish Paste ....	2	—
Glycerine ....	1	—
Honey ....	1	—
Jam ....	1	—
Kaolin Poultice ....	1	—
Liquid Paraffin ....	2	—
Lemon Cheese ....	1	—
Milk ....	48	2
Margarine ....	2	—
Meat Paste ....	1	—
Olive Oil ....	3	—
Orange Squash ....	1	—
Pepper ....	1	—
Redcurrant Jelly ....	1	—
Prunes ....	1	—
Surgical Spirit ....	1	—
Sugar ....	1	—
Syrup of Figs ....	1	—
Vanilla Flavour ....	1	—
Whisky ....	2	—
TOTALS ....	95	2

### Particulars of non-standard samples

#### Hoylake Urban District.

No.	Sample	Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk (Channel Islands)	12.5% deficient in fat	Particulars sent to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with instructions contained in Circular M.F. 8/48.
2	Milk ....	.... 0.9% deficient in non-fatty solids.	No action as deficiency was negligible.

#### Shellfish

An order under the Shellfish Regulations is operative over an area extending from the Red Stones to the Northward boundary of the district. It is administered by the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

#### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Six suspected cases of Food Poisoning were notified by a local practitioner and investigations disclosed that the only thing taken in common by all the patients was shrimps, all purchased on the same day from the same vendor. Unfortunately the outbreak was a week old when notified and although faecal samples were obtained from all the patients and from the vendor and his family the laboratory were unable to isolate any specific food poisoning organisms. The investigation showed that the outbreak undoubtedly occurred from the consumption of locally caught and boiled shrimps but there was no evidence as to the type of organisms involved or of the method by which the shrimps were infected.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One wholetime Rodent Operator is employed. He deals with specific complaints and carries out routine inspections over the whole district dealing with any infestations he finds. In addition he carries out routine preventative treatments on refuse tips, waste lands and sewers.

Ten per cent. of all manholes in the district are baited each half year thus giving a complete coverage every five years. Very few takes have been recorded in the past year and it would appear that there is no serious infestation of the sewers in the area. This may be accounted for by the regular treatments and the fact that many of the sewers in the lower lying areas are fully charged at high tides.

The number of actual infestations dealt with are listed below :

Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	....	164
Business Premises	....      ....      ....	10
Agricultural Land	....      ....      ....	17
Local Authority Property	....      ....	18
		<hr/> 209 <hr/>

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

465 cases of notifiable diseases, other than tuberculosis, occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the table overleaf.



Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1955.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years											
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever     ....	28	—	—	3	20	1	+	—	—	—	11	—	
Pneumonia ....	16	1	—	—	3	—	7	2	1	2	—	—	
Measles     ....	386	8	57	91	198	27	3	2	—	—	1	1	
Whooping Cough ....	23	1	3	9	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas     ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Dysentery     ....	5	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	
TOTALS     ....	465	12	60	103	231	29	20	6	2	2	15	3	

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

### Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1955 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ....	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ....	2	8	—	—	—	—	1	—
25—35 years ....	3	10	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ....	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—55 years ....	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
55—65 years ....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ....	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ....	18	25	1	2	3	1	2	—

**Note:**

Of the total deaths from tuberculosis 16.6% had not been notified.

# Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1955.	71	56	127	12	12	24	151
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1955.	16	14	30	1	2	3	33
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	2	11	13	—	—	—	13
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	8	10	18	2	6	8	26
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1955.	81	71	152	11	8	19	171

## NESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Neston was constituted an Urban District in 1894 and was extended on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Parish of Ness and parts of the Parishes of Burton, Puddington, Eastham, Willaston, Raby and Thornton Hough.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) ....	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1955) ....	10,240
Number of inhabited houses ....	3,224
Rateable value ....	£85,192
Sum represented by a penny rate ....	£335

The area is residential and agricultural. The aforetime occupation of fishing still predominates at Parkgate. There are a number of scholastic institutions. Light industries of a type new to the district have been established.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1946—1955 in Neston :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1946	9,212	61 more births than deaths ..... +6.6
1947	9,288	89 more births than deaths ..... +9.6
1948	9,513	59 more births than deaths ..... +6.2
1949	9,626	42 more births than deaths ..... +4.4
1950	9,816	21 more births than deaths ..... +2.1
1951	9,785	9 more births than deaths ..... +0.9
1952	9,870	43 more births than deaths ..... +4.4
1953	9,922	49 more births than deaths ..... +4.9
1954	10,060	40 more births than deaths ..... +4.0
1955	10,240	43 more births than deaths ..... +4.2



### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1955.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 10,240, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	187	97	90
Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	2	2
Totals	....	....	....	191	99	92
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population						18.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales						15.0

Stillbirths.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	3	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	—	1
Totals	....	....	....	5	3	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						25.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales						23.1

Deaths.				Total	Males	Females
				148	72	76
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population						14.5
Death Rate for England and Wales						11.7

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</b>
Pregnancy, Childbirth		
Abortion ....	Nil	—

**Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate ....	8	4	4
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—
Totals ....	8	4	4

All infants per 1,000 live births....	41.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ....	42.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...	24.9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	Nil

## Number of Deaths during Years 1946—1955.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1946	112	12.2
1947	106	11.4
1948	95	9.9
1949	123	12.8
1950	129	13.1
1951	128	13.1
1952	100	10.1
1953	103	10.4
1954	110	10.9
1955	148	14.5

## Deaths at Various Ages During 1955.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year .....	8
1 year and under 2 .....	1
2 years and under 5 .....	—
5 years and under 15 .....	—
15 years and under 25 .....	—
25 years and under 35 .....	—
35 years and under 45 .....	6
45 years and under 55 .....	10
55 years and under 65 .....	21
65 years and under 75 .....	34
75 years and under 85 .....	46
85 years and over .....	22
Total .....	148

### Table of Infantile Mortality, 1946—1955.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Neston	England and Wales
1946	57.8	43
1947	61.5	41
1948	12.9	34
1949	24.2	32
1950	46.7	29.8
1951	43.8	29.6
1952	49.0	27.6
1953	32.9	26.8
1954	20.0	25.5
1955	41.9	24.9

### Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Birth Trauma....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformation ....	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Other defined and ill defined Diseases ....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL ....	4	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	8



### Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ....	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ....	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ....	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ....	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ....	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ....	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis ....	—	—	—
8. Measles ....	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ....	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ....	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	7	4	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ....	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ....	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ....	9	17	26
18. Coronary disease, angina ....	15	11	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease ....	3	1	4
20. Other heart disease ....	6	9	15
21. Other circulatory disease ....	4	8	12
22. Influenza ....	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia ....	4	2	6
24. Bronchitis ....	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ....	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ....	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ....	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	7	7	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents ....	—	—	—
34. All other accidents ....	1	—	1
35. Suicide ....	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ....	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>148</b>

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS							Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)				
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages					
						Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number		Rate	Standard Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	
1946	9,212	173	18.8	19.1	85	13	40	10	57.8	43	112	12.2			11.5	+ 61
1947	9,288	195	20.9	20.5	80	17	43	12	61.5	41	106	11.4			12.0	+ 89
1948	9,513	154	16.2	17.9	68	5	32	2	12.9	34	95	9.9			10.8	+ 59
1949	9,626	165	17.1	16.7	103	16	36	4	24.2	32	123	12.8	11.5	11.7	11.7	+ 42
1950	9,816	150	15.3	15.8	110	18	37	7	46.7	29.8	129	13.1	11.7	11.6	11.6	+ 21
1951	9,785	137	14.0	15.5	102	14	40	6	43.8	29.6	128	13.1	11.7	12.5	12.5	+ 9
1952	9,870	143	14.5	15.3	75	16	41	7	49.0	27.6	100	10.1	9.0	11.3	11.3	+ 43
1953	9,922	152	15.3	15.5	74	10	39	5	32.9	34.2	103	10.4	9.2	11.4	11.4	+ 49
1954	10,060	150	14.9	15.2	116	26	20	3	20.0	25.5	110	10.9	9.8	11.3	11.3	+ 40
1955	10,240	191	18.7	15.0	132	28	44	8	41.9	24.9	148	14.5	12.0	11.7	11.7	+ 43

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 3.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport, and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake, (telephone Hoylake 2970) and Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall (telephone Heswall 3003).

### Nursing in the Home.

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives and one Midwife are employed to serve this Urban District.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council :-

Place.	Each Month.	Time.
<b>School Clinic.</b>		
Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston	.... Every Tuesday ....	9 a.m.

Place	Each Month.	Time.
<b>Child Welfare.</b>		
Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston ....	.... Every Thursday ....	1-30 p.m.
Red Cross Depot, Willaston ....	.... 1st and 3rd Fridays	2-0 p.m.

**Ante-Natal.**

The Ante-Natal Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and are held at :—

Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston ....	.... Every Monday ....	9-0 a.m.
(The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance)		

**Ear, Nose and Throat.**

Clatterbridge Hospital	.... Every Thursday ....	4 to 5 p.m. children
	Every Friday ....	10-30 a.m. to 12 noon Adults. 3-30 to 4-30 p.m. Children.

**Paediatric.**

Clinic Centre, Neston	.... Every Thursday ....	1-45 p.m.
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**Ophthalmic.**

Clinic Centre, Neston	.... 1st Wednesday ....	9-0 a.m.
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**Speech Therapy.**

Clinic Centre, Neston	.... Every Thursday ....	9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon.
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**Dental.**

Clinic Centre, Neston	.... Every Tuesday ....	9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon
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Place.	Each Month.	Time.
<b>Tuberculosis Dispensary.</b>		
42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	.... Every Tuesday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	.... 10-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
<b>Venereal Diseases.</b>		
St. James Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead.	.... Every Monday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Male and Female.
(Clinic Annex)	Every Wednesday	10-0 a.m. to 12 Noon. Male and Female.
		2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
Chester Royal Infirmary	.... Every Monday	.... 5 p.m. Female
	Every Wednesday	5 p.m. Male
	Every Thursday	.... 5 p.m. Female
	Every Saturday	11 a.m. Male.

### **Hospitals.**

The Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital has 52 beds and two cots. It is equipped for general surgery and has Massage and Out-Patient Departments. It is staffed by local medical practitioners and visiting consultants. The Hospital is controlled by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee. Other hospitals managed by the Board are available to local residents. The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Birkenhead, Liverpool and Chester. The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is at New Ferry.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the serious shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

### **Mortuaries.**

There is a mortuary at the Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The Council supplies water from its own pumping stations to the area of the former Neston and Parkgate Urban District Council whilst the area ceded from the late Wirral Rural District in 1933 is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board.

Mostyn House School has a private supply of water from an artesian well at the school, and there is also an independent supply from a deep well at the Neston Laundry.

None of the waters supplied has a plumbo-solvent action and the Analyst's reports have revealed no evidence of contamination.

The Council's supply is not softened. It has a hardness of 224 expressed in parts per million at the waterworks situate at Lees Lane, Little Neston.

Every house, with one exception, has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below :-

				Dwelling Houses	Population
(a)	House direct	....	....	3,225	10,240
(b)	Standpipes	....	....	—	—

### Consumption.

The volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks is estimated to represent a consumption of approximately 42 gallons per head per day.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

A preliminary report on the proposal to provide sewerage facilities in the village of Burton was under discussion during the year.

In other parts of the district the extension of public sewers is necessary to deal with properties, some 280 in number, at present draining to septic tanks. Where there are colonies of such dwellings, the disposal of the septic tank effluents becomes a distinct embarrassment, and the pollution of ditches is almost unavoidable.

### Rivers and Streams.

There is no gross pollution of streams. The diversion of sewage effluent from a stream in the Willaston area has removed a constant source of nuisance.

### Closet Accommodation.

In rural parts of the district remote from sewers a number of pail closets and chemical closets are in use.

### Open Spaces.

The District has some 68.0 acres of public open space.

### Public Cleansing.

Two motor vehicles of modern type are employed. Disposal is controlled by tipping. Increasing development will necessitate additional equipment if a weekly service is to be given in all parts of the district.

### Salvage.

The following table shows the weight and value of the material returned to industry during this year.

Material	Weight			Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ....	169	5	3	1482	2	8
Rags ....	5	13	0	141	5	0
Ferrous Metal....	4	0	0	16	0	0
Non-ferrous Metal ....	1	1	0	63	0	0
	179	19	3	£1702	7	8

The weight and value of material salvaged since 1939 is :—

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
1350	4	2	10877	14	5



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
	Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses :						
Inspected .... 192	3	61	52	12	—	—
Re infectious disease .... 63	—	3	3	—	—	—
Housing Acts on complaints .... 51	1	22	20	3	—	—
House to house inspection .... 87	4	38	36	6	—	—
Overcrowding .... 21	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds 16	—	2	2	—	—	—
Factories .... 67	—	6	6	—	—	—
Theatres and cinemas .... 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds .... —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies .... 43	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk samples .... 60	—	3	3	—	—	—
Premises used for preparation of food .... 296	—	83	80	3	—	—
Fried fish shops .... 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice cream premises .... 21	—	4	4	—	—	—
Water samples .... 10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals .... 14	—	5	5	—	—	—
Schools .... 17	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc. 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Back passages .... 2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected .... 11	—	4	4	—	—	—
,, smoke tested .... 3	—	1	1	—	—	—
,, water tested .... —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks and cesspools 61	—	13	12	1	—	—
Refuse collection and disposal .... 318	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations 21	—	5	5	—	—	—
Rats and mice destruction 217	—	12	12	—	—	—
Pools, ditches and watercourses ... 43	—	2	2	—	—	—
Privy middens .... —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public conveniences .... 2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and bins .... 28	—	16	—	—	—	—
Control of civil building —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke observations .... 40	—	10	10	—	—	—
Soil samples for patho- genesis.... 18	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .... 1736	8	293	260	25	—	—

## Factories Act, 1937 &amp; 1948.

## Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	16	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	34	19	3	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	12	16	3	—
Total ....	58	51	8	—

## Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Total ....	8	7	—	1	—

### **Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.**

The factories in the district have been visited from time to time and the attention of the occupiers has been directed to those matters necessary to secure compliance with the Act.

### **Shops and Offices.**

Inspections under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, were made to secure compliance therewith.

### **Camping Sites.**

No licences were granted under Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### **Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution**

In one instance it was necessary to draw attention to the need to reduce the amount of smoke emitted from a factory chimney. The installation of an induced draught system resulted in a distinctive improvement.

Complaints were received about the emission of sulphur gases from factories on the Welsh coast. This matter was referred to the Government Inspector of Alkalis and an assurance was received that all practicable steps would be taken to minimize such emissions.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Number of houses found to be infested:—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Number of Houses Disinfested :—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

### **Schools.**

Detailed improvement has taken place in conditions at the Ness Holt C. of E. (Controlled) School, subsequent to the School becoming controlled. Other Schools in the district have also been the subject of improvement.

### Housing.

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1955 :—			
(a) Permanent ....	44	50	94
(b) Temporary ....	—	—	—
Number of flats provided in 1955 ....	—	—	—
Totals ....	44	50	94

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :—			
(a) Permanent ....	382	226	608
(b) Temporary ....	75	—	75
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945 ....	—	21	21
Totals ....	457	247	704

Three dwellings were the subject of demolition orders made under the Housing Acts and were demolished.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Milk Supply.

Supervision of the production of milk was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture at the end of 1949. Close liaison is maintained with the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry.

The following licences were issued under The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1954:—

Supplementary Licence to use designation Tuberculin Tested ....	1
Supplementary Licence to use designation Pasteurised ....	3
Dealer's Licences (Pasteurised and Sterilised)	4
„ „ raw milk (Tuberculin Tested)	2
Supplementary Licences (Heat Treated) ....	3
„ „ (raw Milk) ....	1
TOTAL ....	14

## Results of Examination of Milk Supplies.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Biological		Turbidity	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ....	13	13	—	12	1	—	13	—	—
Sterilised ....	2	2	—	2	—	—	2	2	—
T.T. Past. ....	21	20	1	20	1	—	21	—	—
T.T. ....	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ....	60	59	1	34	2	—	36	2	—

### Meat and Other Foods.

The following sets out the quantity of foodstuffs found not to be fit for human consumption :—

Article Condemned	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation
Canned Meat and Meat Products ....	104	Decomposition blown and punctured containers
Canned Milk ....	4	Blown
Canned Fruit ....	36	Blown
Canned Vegetables ....	16	Blown
Cereals ....	13	Weevil infested
Mutton (home killed) ....	60	Dropsy
Preserves ....	7	Broken Glass Jars
Total weight in lbs. ....	240	

Condemnation certificates in the form requested by the Ministry of Food were supplied in each case, and the condemned material was appropriately dealt with, due regard being had to the terms of Ministry of Health Circular 2886 of 17th November, 1943, in this connection.

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### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

There are four licensed slaughtermen.

### Slaughterhouses.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse.

### Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

**List of Samples taken in the Neston Urban district under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.**

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Arrowroot ....	1	—
Camphorated Oil ....	1	—
Coconut-Desiccated ....	1	—
Dried Apricots ....	1	—
Glycerine ....	1	—
Jam ....	2	—
Lemon Cheese ....	1	—
Milks ....	15	4
Margarine ....	1	—
Suet ....	1	—
Surgical Spirit ....	1	—
Shrimps ....	3	—
Whisky ....	2	—
Wintergreen Ointment ....	1	—
TOTALS ....	32	4

### Particulars of non-standard samples Neston Urban District

No.	Sample	Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk ....	3.5% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal	No action as sample was certified as genuine but abnormal
2	„ ....	1.1% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal.	— do. —
3	„ ....	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal.	— do. —
4	Milk .... (Channel Islands)	15% deficient in fat.	Particulars sent to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with instructions contained in Circular M.F.8/48.

### Ice Cream.

Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue (hrs.)	No. of Specimens reducing Methylene Blue	No. of Specimens with						Provisional Grade
		Presumptive Coliforms		Faecal Coli		Staphylococcus Aureus		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	
4½ or more	16	9	7	—	16	—	16	1
2½ — 4	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
½ — 2	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
0	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total ....	18	—	7	—	16	—	18	

### Shellfish.

There are no layings in the district. The delicacies known as Parkgate Shrimps, which enjoy a more than local reputation, although prepared and despatched from the neighbourhood are caught in the wide estuary of the River Dee.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Maintenance treatment of sewers was carried out in areas in which test baiting indicated the presence of rats. There was no evidence of surface infestation in these areas.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There is one registered Pet Shop.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

228 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the following table.



Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1955.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years									65 & over		
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65				
Scarlet Fever .....	8	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	16	2	3	3	—	3	—	3	3	2	1	6	
Measles .....	177	3	18	38	108	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough .....	18	1	4	4	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis .....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Paratyphoid .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Dysentery .....	5	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
TOTALS .....	228	6	25	45	128	12	2	3	5	2	3	6	

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

### Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1955 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ....	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	—

**Note:**—The above death was that of a patient who had been notified before death.

## Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1955.	24	16	40	6	6	12	52
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1955.	1	1	2	—	1	1	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	2	3	5	—	—	—	5
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1955.	24	16	40	6	7	13	53

## WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT.

This district was constituted under the Chester Review Order, 1st April, 1933. It includes the Parishes of Heswall, Barnston, Gayton, Irby, Pensby, Thurstaston and parts of Brimstage, Thornton Hough and Arrowe.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1955)	....	....	....	....	....	....	17,530
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,883
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	....	£164,103
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	£665

The district is mainly residential. Agriculture, fishing, the building trade and two factories manufacturing clothing employ a number of persons.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1946—1955 in Wirral :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1946	16,370	99 more births than deaths ..... +6.0
1947	16,610	148 more births than deaths ..... +8.9
1948	17,130	115 more births than deaths ..... +6.7
1949	17,230	70 more births than deaths ..... +4.1
1950	17,180	35 more births than deaths ..... +2.0
1951	17,160	5 more births than deaths ..... +0.3
1952	17,000	50 more births than deaths ..... +2.9
1953	17,040	31 more births than deaths ..... +1.8
1954	17,160	35 more births than deaths ..... +2.0
1955	17,530	29 more births than deaths ..... +1.6



### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1955.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 17,530 the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

<b>Live Births.</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate	....	....		255	123	132
Illegitimate	....	....		7	2	5
Totals	....	....	....	262	125	137
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population						14.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales						15.0

<b>Stillbirths.</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate	....	....		5	4	1
Illegitimate	....	....		1	—	1
Totals	....	....	....	6	4	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births						22.4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales						23.1

<b>Deaths.</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
				233	116	117
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population						13.3
Death Rate for England and Wales						11.7

**Deaths from Puerperal Causes.**

	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.</b>
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ....	Nil	Nil

**Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legitimate .....	9	5	4
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—
Totals ....	9	5	4

All infants per 1,000 live births ....	34.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	35.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ....	24.9

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ....	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	Nil

Number of Deaths during Years 1946—1955.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1946	194	11.9
1947	183	11.0
1948	184	10.7
1949	207	12.0
1950	190	11.1
1951	222	12.9
1952	177	10.4
1953	197	11.6
1954	224	13.1
1955	233	13.3

Deaths at Various Ages During 1955.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year .....	9
1 year and under 2 .....	—
2 years and under 5 .....	1
5 years and under 15 .....	2
15 years and under 25 .....	2
25 years and under 35 .....	2
35 years and under 45 .....	1
45 years and under 55 .....	15
55 years and under 65 .....	30
65 years and under 75 .....	57
75 years and under 85 .....	77
85 years and over .....	37
Total .....	233

### Table of Infantile Mortality, 1946—1955.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Wirral	England and Wales
1946	23.9	43
1947	33.2	41
1948	30.1	34
1949	28.9	32
1950	26.7	29.8
1951	26.4	29.6
1952	13.2	27.6
1953	21.9	26.8
1954	11.6	25.5
1955	34.3	24.9

### Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below :—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformation ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Birth Trauma ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total ....	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	9



### Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease .....	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
8.	Measles .....	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	—	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1	12
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast....	—	6	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	11	8	19
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes .....	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	22	33
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	21	14	35
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	5	5	10
20.	Other heart disease .....	19	20	39
21.	Other circulatory disease .....	4	8	12
22.	Influenza .....	1	3	4
23.	Pneumonia .....	7	5	12
24.	Bronchitis .....	4	2	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	2	—	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	2	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations .....	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	10	11	21
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	2	3
34.	All other accidents .....	1	—	1
35.	Suicide .....	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—
TOTALS		116	117	233

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
		Number	Rate	Rate England & Wales	Transferable		Under 1 year of age			At all ages					
					Non-Residents Registered in District	Residents Not Registered in District	Total Number Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standard Rate for Comparison England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1946	16,370	293	17.9	19.1	183	60	71	7	23.9	43	194	11.9		11.5	+ 99
1947	16,610	331	19.9	20.5	173	53	63	11	33.2	41	183	11.0		12.0	+148
1948	17,130	299	17.5	17.9	161	43	66	9	30.1	34	184	10.7		10.8	+115
1949	17,230	277	16.1	16.7	175	44	76	8	28.9	32	207	12.0	10.9	11.7	+ 70
1950	17,180	225	13.1	15.8	138	15	67	6	26.7	29.8	190	11.1	10.0	11.6	+ 35
1951	17,160	227	13.2	15.5	173	17	66	6	26.4	29.6	222	12.9	11.6	12.5	+ 5
1952	17,000	227	13.4	15.3	120	20	77	3	13.2	27.6	177	10.4	9.4	11.3	+ 50
1953	17,040	228	13.3	15.5	140	20	77	5	21.9	26.8	197	11.6	10.4	11.4	+ 31
1954	17,160	259	15.1	15.2	144	20	100	3	11.6	25.5	224	13.1	11.5	11.3	+ 35
1955	17,530	262	14.9	15.0	156	23	100	9	34.3	24.9	233	13.3	11.7	11.7	+ 29

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **Public Health Officers.**

Details are given on page 3.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall, (telephone Heswall 3003), and Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake—(telephone Hoylake 2970).

### **Nursing in the Home.**

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives are employed by them to serve this Urban District.

### **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are conducted by the County Council.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :-

#### **Child Welfare.**

Place	Each Month	Time.
Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall	.... Every Monday	.... 1-45 p.m.
Methodist Church Hall, Irby	Every Wednesday	.... 1-45 p.m.

#### **School Clinic.**

Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall	.... Every Tuesday	.... 1-45 p.m.
--	--------------------	----------------

#### **Ante-Natal.**

The Ante-Natal Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and are held at :—

Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall	.... Every Thursday	.... 9-30 a.m.
The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance.		

#### **Paediatric.**

Clinic Centre, Heswall	.... Every Tuesday	.... 10-0 or 2-0 p.m. (alternate weeks)
------------------------	--------------------	--

#### **Ophthalmic.**

Clinic Centre, Heswall	.... 2nd and 4th Fridays	1-0 p.m.
------------------------	--------------------------	----------

#### **Speech Therapy.**

Clinic Centre, Heswall	.... Every Friday	.... 9-0 to 4-0 p.m.
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#### **Dental.**

Clinic Centre, Heswall	.... Every Wednesday	9-0 to 4-0 p.m.
------------------------	----------------------	-----------------

#### **Ear, Nose and Throat.**

Clatterbridge Hospital	.... Every Thursday	.... 4 to 5 p.m. Children
	Every Friday	.... 3-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. Children
	Every Friday	.... 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon Adults.



<b>Tuberculosis Dispensary.</b>	<b>Each Month.</b>	<b>Time.</b>
42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	.... Every Tuesday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	.... 10-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
<b>Venereal Diseases.</b>		
St. James Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead.	.... Every Monday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female
(Clinic Annexe)	Every Wednesday	.... 10-0 a.m. to 12 Noon. Male and Female.
		2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
Chester Royal Infirmary	.... Every Monday	.... 5 p.m. Female.
	Every Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. Male.
	Every Thursday	.... 5 p.m. Female.
	Every Saturday	.... 11 a.m. Male.

### **Hospitals.**

The Hospitals of the District, both Voluntary and Public are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Wirral is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall, accommodates 242 patients. It is the country branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and was designed originally for the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The Hospital admits patients from this area. It is equipped with a steam disinfecter.

The Cleaver Sanatorium for the reception of cases of tuberculosis admits patients from this district.

The Maternity Home at Oldfield Way, Heswall, which has accommodation for 13 maternity patients is now under the management of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the serious shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

### **Mortuaries.**

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Thurstaston Road, Heswall.

The premises are unsatisfactory and arrangements have been made for post mortem examinations to be made at the mortuary owned by the Hoylake Urban District Council.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The main sources of supply are deep wells at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and the water is controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations, all of which have proved satisfactory. None of the waters has a plumbo-solvent action.

A scheme has been prepared for the extraction of water from the River Dee. Water from this source is already being used for industrial purposes although it will be some time before such water will be available for domestic use.

There was one complaint of dead mosquitoes in water drawn direct from the public main. Officials of the West Cheshire Water Board were unable to find any explanation of the presence of the insects but after thorough flushing of the length of affected main there was no further complaint.

Public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking, domestic, trade and agricultural purposes. Every permanent type dwelling house has a separate piped supply of mains water and standpipes are used only in connection with erections constructed of short-lived materials and normally used for seasonal occupation, but as a result of housing shortage, now being occupied on a permanent basis.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep. There is a supply of public mains water available for the hospital as and when required.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses and (b) by means of standpipes, are given below :—

				Dwelling Houses	Population
(a)	House direct	....	....	5,883	17,530
(b)	Standpipes	....	....	42	126

### Consumption.

Details of the quantity supplied to consumers in this area are not available but it is estimated that the average daily consumption per head was 31.8 gallons.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the River Dee.

Overloading of various sewers occurs during periods of heavy rainfall and parts of the District are subjected to flooding. Anti-flood valves have been fitted in several lengths of drain but this palliative is appropriate in comparatively few cases.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are actively engaged in the preparation of an amended scheme designed to prevent flooding in that part of the District draining to the Fender Valley Sewer. It is anticipated that this will be the first step in concluding a matter which has frustrated the Council for far too long.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

Three cases of minor pollution caused by unsatisfactory effluents from septic tanks were remedied.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The following premises are provided with pail closets :—

Permanent Dwellings	....	....	13
Temporary Structures	....	....	43

### **Open Spaces.**

There are some 223.5 acres of public open space in the district.



## Public Cleansing.

### Refuse Collection.

In spite of difficulties associated with inadequate labour the weekly collection of refuse from each house was maintained also the twice weekly collection from certain shops, schools and public institutions.

Number of premises from which refuse was collected	....	6030
Number of bins emptied per week	....	6260
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited (per visit)	....	£26.49
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected (per collection)	....	£26.09

### Refuse Disposal.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on land at the Heswall Sewage Disposal Works. This tip is almost completed and planning permission has been obtained for the use of land which the Council owns at Thurstaston.

The Council has decided to purchase a bulldozer and scraper to facilitate the satisfactory disposal of refuse.

### Salvage Collection.

There was a substantial increase in the weight of salvage collected during the year and the net profit for the year was £1649. The total net profit from the sale of salvage since 1939 is now £13,055.

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	....	....	294	4	2	2593	19	9
Textiles	....	....	7	17	2	236	5	0
Metals	....	....	3	9	2	46	9	10
Bottles & Jars	....	....		4	0	1	19	0
Tins for Baling	....	....	10	0	0	36	6	10
			315	15	2	£2915	0	5

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**  
**Inspections made during the year ended 31st December 1955**

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions
		Informal	Statutory	Complied With	Remaining in hand	
	No.					
Dwelling Houses:—						
Inspected on Complaints ...	214	75	6	57	24	—
Re-Inspected ....	1573	—	—	—	—	—
Re-Infectious Diseases ...	64	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Acts on Complaints	335	4	2	4	2	—
House to House Inspection ...	108	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Re Infestations ....	25	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	384	1	—	1	—	—
Factories Acts:—						
With Mechanical Power ...	95	6	—	4	2	—
Without Mechanical Power....	39	—	—	—	—	—
Building Sites ....	322	27	—	23	4	—
Theatres and Places of Enter- tainment ....	10	1	—	—	1	—
Milk Distribution ....	8	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Samples ....	184	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Act Inspections ....	42	—	—	—	—	—
Premises used for Preparation of Food ....	125	7	—	4	3	—
Food Bye-laws Inspections ....	327	—	—	—	—	—
Food Inspections ....	42	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises ....	202	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream and Lolly Ice Samples ....	492	—	—	—	—	—
Swabs for Bacteriological Examination ....	362	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply ....	25	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs, Fowls and Other Animals	153	3	—	3	—	—
Schools ....	34	1	—	1	—	—
Sewers, Ventilators, Street Gullies ....	106	—	—	—	—	—
Drains Inspected ....	1715	50	—	43	7	—
Excavations made ....	65	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Tested ....	646	—	—	—	—	—
Water Tested ....	14	—	—	—	—	—
Carried forward ....	7,825	175	8	140	43	—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area—*continued*

Inspections made during the year ended 31st December, 1955

Number and Nature of Inspections made	No.	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions
		Informal	Statutory	Complied With	Remaining in hand	
Brought forward ....	7,825	175	8	149	43	—
New Buildings ....	242	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Tanks, Cesspools ....	115	2	—	2	—	—
Pail Closets, Water Closets ....	3	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Collection ....	527	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal ....	225	—	—	—	—	—
Dustbins ....	233	37	—	33	4	—
Offensive Accumulations ....	90	1	—	1	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:—						
Sewers ....	652	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property ....	99	—	—	—	—	—
Private Dwellings ....	5285	—	—	—	—	—
Business Premises ....	384	15	—	15	—	—
Local Authority Property ....	228	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations ....	221	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Complaints Visited ....	8	—	—	—	—	—
Advisory Visits to Works ....	25	—	—	—	—	—
Pools, Ditches, etc. ....	151	6	—	6	—	—
Public Conveniences ....	20	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises ....	21	—	—	—	—	—
Swabs for Bacteriological Examination ....	164	—	—	—	—	—
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts ....	22	—	—	—	—	—
Flooding ....	10	—	—	—	—	—
Pet Animal Act Inspections ....	3	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ....	104	—	—	—	—	—
Notices outstanding from 1954	—	86	21	98	9	—
Totals ....	16,557	322	29	295	56	—

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING 1955.

**Houses:—**

Roofs Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
Chimney Stacks Pointed or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Rainwater Gutters Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Downspouts Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Downspouts Disconnected from Drains	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Walls Pointed or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Ventilation Improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Windows Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
New Sash Cords Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Window Fasteners Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Windows made to Open	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Firegrates Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Ovens Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Plastering to Firegrates Repaired...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Hearthstones Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Floors Relaid or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Skirting Boards Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Wall Plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Walls Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Doors Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Door Fasteners Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Sinks Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Sink Waste Pipes Trapped	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Dampness Remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	86
Washing Boilers Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Nuisances from Animals Abated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Yard Surfaces Relaid or Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Yard Surfaces proper means of Drainage Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Sufficient Water Supply Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7

**Drainage:—**

New Drains Constructed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Old Drains Reconstructed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Drains Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	201
„ Disconnected from Sewer	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ Inspection Chambers Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
„ Ventilated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
„ Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	115
Self-Cleansing Gullies Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8

**Water Closets:—**

New Basins Fixed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Connections Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Cisterns Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Provided with a sufficient Supply of Water	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Doors Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Seats Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7

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Carried Forward .... 849

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING 1955—*continued*

							Brought Forward ....	849
<b>Dustbins:—</b>								
Dustbins Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56
<b>Cesspools, Septic Tanks :—</b>								
Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Nuisances Abated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
<b>Farms :—</b>								
Drainage Improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
<b>Vehicles Used For Distribution of Food :—</b>								
Name and Address Exhibited	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
<b>Premises Used for Preparation of Food :—</b>								
Limewashed and Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
<b>Factories and Workshops :—</b>								
Cleansed and Limewashed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Other Offences	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
<b>Miscellaneous:—</b>	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
						<b>Total</b>	....	<u>950</u>



## Factories Act, 1937 &amp; 1948.

Inspections				
Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	39	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	38	95	6	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ....	79	322	27	—
Total ....	127	456	33	—

## Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	27	25	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	4	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ....	1	1	1	—	—
Total ....	33	32	1	1	—

### Building Sites.

Many contractors commenced building operations before providing suitable sanitary accommodation for their employees and on 27 occasions it was necessary to take action in this connection.

### Shops.

Forty-two routine inspections were made of shop premises to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 38, Shops Act, 1950.

### Camping Sites and Movable Dwellings.

The demand for camping sites continues to be in excess of those available and plans are being made for land owned by the Council at Thurstaston to be used for this purpose.

Licensees of camping sites being complied with recommendations for improving the camps.

**Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures in the District for the year ended 31st December, 1955.**

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents March to October)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston ....	—	3	—
Gayton ....	—	—	—
Heswall ....	17	54	24
Irby ....	9	26	—
Pensby ....	—	—	—
Thurstaston ....	1	3	—
TOTALS ....	27	86	24

### Smoke Abatement.

During the year 254 routine observations and advisory visits to works were undertaken in connection with smoke emission from non-domestic chimneys.

Emission from two hospitals was frequently unsatisfactory.

Various expedients having failed it is now proposed to adapt the boilers at one hospital for burning coke and at the other arrangements are being made to instal automatic stokers and economisers.

Defects in a metal chimney stack at a laundry caused the emission of excessive quantities of smoke. Following the replacement of defective parts, the nuisance was abated.

To reduce the emission of smoke from the boilerhouse chimney at a clothing factory an underfeed mechanical stoker was fitted to the boiler.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is no public swimming bath in this District. A boys' boarding school and a boys' camp have private swimming baths the latter having equipment for filtration and chlorination of the water.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Houses found to be infested :—

(a)	Council Houses....	....	....	....	....	None
(b)	Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Number of Houses disinfested :—

(a)	Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b)	Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

### Schools.

The educational establishments in the District now consist of one Secondary Modern School, three County Primary Schools, one Church of England (controlled) School, two Church of England Schools and eight private Schools.

All the Schools have water closets and are supplied from the public water supply.

The County Schools, with the exception of the Heswall County Primary School and the Heswall Church of England School have canteens with modern equipment for the preparation and cooking of food. The meals for the latter two schools are supplied from the canteen at the Pensby Secondary Modern School.

These premises were inspected from time to time during the year and any matters requiring attention were dealt with expeditiously.

It was necessary to condemn as unfit for human consumption part of a consignment of imported beef supplied to the Secondary Modern School.

## HOUSING.

### Repairs.

Although there was a reduction in the number of complaints of structural defects the cost of repairs made many owners reluctant to undertake anything more than essential maintenance work.

Three Certificates of Disrepair were granted in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

### Demolition and Clearance.

Seven unfit houses were demolished.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has approved the Council's proposals to deal during the next five years with 31 unfit dwellings which are liable to demolition.

### New Accommodation.

During the year 10 houses were built by the Council and 159 houses by private enterprises.

The following table indicates the progress made since 1st August, 1945 :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :-			
(a) Permanent ....	565	543	1108
(b) Houses and Shops ....	2	—	2
(c) Pre-fabricated ....	40	—	40
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :-	—	4	4
Number of flats provided ....	6	14	20
TOTALS ....	613	561	1174

The annual rent roll now exceeds £46,000 and arrears of rent are negligible.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

In March, this District was included in a specified area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1955.

There are twelve retailers of milk in the district. The following licenses were issued for the sale of designated milks:—

#### **Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954.**

Dealers Retailing Licence	....	....	....	5
Supplementary Retailing Licence	....	....	....	1

#### **Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks) Regulations 1949-1954.**

Dealers Retailing Licence	....	....	....	28
Supplementary Retailing Licence	....	....	....	9

All schools receive supplies of pasturised milks and the milk provided in hospitals is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested.

### Milk Sampling.

This work is undertaken regularly and systematically, all samples being submitted for examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Birkenhead. The results of samples examined during the year were as follows :—

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested    ....    ....    ....	28	28	—	—	—
Pasteurised    ....    ....    ....    ....	*91	88	1	87	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)    ....	*62	60	—	60	—
Sterilised    ....    ....    ....    ....	3	3	—	3	—
TOTALS    ....    ...	184	179	1	150	2

\*Tests void on 2 samples of each designation—excessive room temperature at laboratory.



## Meat Inspection.

There is no slaughterhouse in the Urban District, all meat supplies being obtained from adjacent areas.

Routine inspections of all butchers shops confirmed that they were being maintained in good order.

## Unsound Food.

Foodstuffs condemned as unsuitable for human consumption were as follows :—

Commodity Surrendered	Quantity
Bacon .....	61 lbs.
Butter .....	1 lb.
Cheese .....	5½ lbs.
Meat .....	114 lbs.
Cereals .....	2 Pkts.
Cheese Spread .....	27 Pkts.
Cooked Ham .....	20 lbs.
Frozen Eggs .....	151 lbs.
Jellies .....	5 Pkts.
Canned Fish .....	8 Tins
Canned Cream .....	4 Tins
Canned Fruit .....	48 Tins
Canned Meat .....	46 Tins
Canned Milk .....	8 Tins
Canned Soup .....	9 Tins
Canned Vegetables .....	107 Tins

## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

### Schedule of Food Premises.

Type of Business	Number
Bakehouses ....	8
Bread and Confectionery ....	16
Butchers ....	13
Cafes ....	9
Chemists....	8
Clubs ....	5
Dairies ....	7
Egg Packing Station ....	1
Fishmongers ....	8
Fried Fish and Chips Shops ....	5
Greengrocers ....	24
Grocers ....	35
Holiday Camps (Kitchens) ....	2
Licensed Premises ....	13
Schools (Kitchens) ....	10
Sweet Shops ....	24
Wines and Spirits ....	4
TOTAL ....	192

Four hundred and fifty-two visits were made to retail food premises and in addition catering establishments received considerable attention. In the latter, swabbing of equipment for bacteriological examination was used to check washing-up technique.

The practice of giving talks to various women's organisations was continued and there is lively public interest in all matters appertaining to food hygiene.

### Ice Cream.

There are nine premises registered for the manufacture and fifty-eight for the sale of ice cream.

Routine inspections were made of all these premises and attention was also given to vans retailing ice cream in the area.

### Ice Cream Sampling.

Three hundred and seventy-five samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :—

Class of Mix	No. of Samples	Provisional Grade Number			
		1	2	3	4
Cold Mix ....	12	11	1	—	—
Heat Treated ....	363	362	1	—	—
TOTALS ....	375	373	2	—	—

In addition, one hundred and seventeen lolly ices were examined and found to be satisfactory.

### Licensed Premises.

Extensive improvements to the sanitary accommodation at one licensed premise were completed during the year and revised plans have been prepared for similar improvements to the sanitary accommodation at a second licensed premise, the necessary work to be commenced during the coming year.

Considerable attention continues to be given to the arrangements for washing glasses and in this connection one hundred and sixty-four swabs taken from glasses were submitted for bacteriological examination. In five instances the reports were unsatisfactory and after appropriate action subsequent swabs were reported satisfactory.

### Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

#### List of Samples taken in the Wirral Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Aspirin B.P. ....	1	—
Boric Ointment ....	2	—
Cream, Tinned ....	1	—
Calamine Lotion ....	1	—
Desiccated Coconut ....	1	—
Epsom Salts ....	1	—
Fish Paste ....	1	—
Glucose Pastilles ....	1	—
Grape Fruit Squash ....	1	—
Iodine ....	2	1
Lanoline Ointment ....	1	—
Lemon Squash ....	1	—
Lemon Cheese ....	1	—
Milk ....	24	1
Milk Condensed ....	2	—
Malt Vinegar ....	2	—
Olive Oil ....	2	—
Orange Squash ....	1	—
Peel ....	1	—
Pepper ....	1	—
Parsley ....	1	—
Parsley & Thyme Stuffing ....	1	—
Sweets ....	2	—
Shrimps ....	1	—
Wintergreen Ointment ....	1	—
Zinc Ointment ....	1	—
TOTALS ....	55	2

#### Particulars of non-standard samples Wirral Urban District

No.	Sample	Analysis	Remarks
1	Tincture of Iodine	16.3% deficient in potassium	Seller Cautioned.
2	Milk (Channel Islands)	5% deficient in fat	Particulars sent to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with instructions contained in Circular M.F.8/48.



### Shellfish.

There has been a reduction in the gathering of cockles from layings which are within the jurisdiction of the Chester Port Health Authority.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

A case of suspected food poisoning affecting one person was investigated. Specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination but no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One whole-time rat catcher is employed and the district was systematically inspected during the year.

Routine test baiting of sewers disclosed slight rat infestation in a small length of sewer which was found to be defective. After poison treatment and making good the defects further test baiting gave negative results.

The following is a summary of the work done :—

Type of Property	Total Number of Properties Infested by Rats and Mice	Total Number of Inspections as a result of		Total Number of Properties treated by Local Authority
		Notifi- cation	Other- wise	
Local Authority ....	11	—	228	11
Dwelling Houses ....	221	1232	4053	221
Business Premises ....	17	123	261	17
Agricultural Property ....	9	2	97	—
TOTALS ....	258	1357	4639	249

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

107 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis were recorded during the year.

Details of the cases are given in the following table :—

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1955.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years									65 & over		
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65				
Scarlet Fever     ....	6	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Pneumonia     ....	14	2	—	2	1	—	1	4	2	2	—	—	
Measles     ....	57	1	10	15	28	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough     ....	17	1	6	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis     ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas     ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Dysentery     ....	11	—	2	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	
TOTALS     ....	107	4	19	23	45	5	1	4	3	3	12	—	

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

### Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1955 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years ....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	9	6	1	1	—	—	—	—

# Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1955.	62	42	104	10	8	18	122
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1955.	2	3	5	—	1	1	6
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	6	2	8	1	—	1	9
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	10	10	20	8	8	16	36
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1955.	61	38	99	3	1	4	103





